

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01

EB-11 L-03 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /121 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3905

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6706

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, IR

SUBJECT: STIFF IRANIAN REACTION TO ALLEGED CRITICISM BY
INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY: ALLEGED CRITICAL REMARKS BY INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH ABOUT IRANIAN MILITARY BUILD-UP HAS TRIGGERED VERY STRONG IRANIAN REACTION CHARGING INDIA WITH PROVOCATIVE AND HYPOCRITICAL POLICIES AND JUSTIFYING IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN TO COUNTER INTERNAL SECURITY THREATS. OVERLY SENSITIVE IRANIAN REACTION COULD CAUSE SERIOUS SETBACK TO INDIA-IRAN RELATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN OFF ON A BETTER FOOT SINCE VISIT TO IRAN TWO MONTHS AGO OF FOREIGN MINISTER SINGH.
END SUMMARY

1. PARAGRAPH WHICH FOLLOWS IS A TRANSLATION PROVIDED US BY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OF AN IRANIAN AIDE MEMOIRE HANDED SEPARATELY ON SEPTEMBER 9 BY (THEN) DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AHMAD MIRFENDERESKI TO AMBASSADORS IN TEHRAN OF AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA AND CANADA, PROTESTING ALLEGED REMARKS MADE AT RECENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA BY INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH. AIDE MEMOIRE WAS NOT DELIVERED TO
SECRET

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THE BRITISH EMBASSY, REPRESENTING THE FOURTH COMMONWEALTH COUNTRY WITH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN TEHRAN. INSTEAD, SEPARATE AND STRONGER COMMUNICATION FROM MFA WAS HANDED TO BRITISH EMBASSY, PROTESTING SWARAN SINGH REMARKS AND

CRITICIZING UNITED KINGDOM FOR NOT TAKING EXCEPTION TO
SINGH REMARKS AT TIME THEY WERE MADE.

2. QUOTE AIDE MEMOIRE

QUOTE AT THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN CANADA,
THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT RICH OIL-PRODUCING
COUNTRIES IN THE PERSIAN GULF INCLUDING IRAN HAVE BEEN
ENGAGED IN AN ARMS RACE THROUGH THE INTRIGUE AND INSTIGATION
OF FOREIGN POWERS. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED THE INDIAN
GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN AT THE DANGER OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

QUOTE ALTHOUGH RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND INDIA HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDLY AND ARE AT PRESENT, SINCE SUCH STATE-
MENTS WERE MADE AT A COMMONWELATH CONFERENCE, THE FOLLOWING
EXPLANATIONS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY IN AN EFFORT TO CLARIFY
THE SITUATION:

QUOTE DESPITE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM IN RECENT
YEARS THAT IT ADVOCATES PEACE AND STABILITY, IT HAS
UNFORTUNATELY ADOPTED A PROVOCATIVE POLICY IN THE PERSIAN
GULF REGION WHICH HAS CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF ANXIETY
AMONG THE LITTORAL STATES. THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE
INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN PRACTICE IS CONTRADICTORY TO THE
OFFICIAL POLICY OF NEW DELHI.

QUOTE DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
STRUCTURE OF INDIA IS UNSATISFACTORY, THIS COUNTRY IS
EQUIPPING ITSELF WITH THE MOST MODERN MILITARY HARDWARE
AND, FURTHERMORE, IT WAS INDIA WHO HAS REPEATEDLY USED
HER MILITARY MIGHT AGAINST THE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE
RECOGNIZED BORDERS OF ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED
NATIONS.

QUOTE IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT IN THIS PART OF
THE WORLD IT IS ONLY INDIA WHO IS CAPABLE OF MANUFACTURING
MODERN WEAPONS WITH A DETERRENT CAPACITY; AND IT IS NOT A SECRET THAT
INDIA IS STILL PURCHASING MODERN EQUIPMENT
FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

QUOTE IRAN HAS ALWAYS ENCOURAGE PAKISTAN TO SETTLE ITS
DISPUTE WITH INDIA AND HAS STRONGLY ADVISED PAKISTAN TO
ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
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WE HAVE REPEATEDLY GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT IRAN'S MILITARY
STRENGTH WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST INDIA IF INDIA DOES NOT
HAVE AGGRESSIVE PLANS AGAINST PAKISTAN.

QUOTE AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ANNOUNCED WE BELIEVE THAT
THE PERSIAN GULF SHOULD REMAIN FREE FROM SUPER POWER
RIVALRIES AND THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PEACE ANJD
SECURITY OF THIS REGION RESTS WITH THE LITTORAL POWERS ON
THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND COOPERATION.

QUOTE IRAN IS DETERMINED TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT HER
POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND AT THE SAME TIME IS ALWAYS READY
TO GIVE MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL HELP TO HER FRIENDS.

QUOTE EVBAYBODY KNOWS THAT IRAN IS A VAST LAND AND IN
ADDITION TO ITS HUGE OIL RESOURCES HAS OTHER RESOURCES WHICH

WILL INSURE THE WELFARE OF THE IRANIAN PEOPLE FOR GENERATIONS;
THEREFORE IRAN DOES NOT HAVE MILITARY AND TERRITORIAL CLAIM
OR AMBITIONS.

QUOTE WE ENJOY THE BEST OF RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN; THE
TWO NATIONS ARE LINKED THROUGH THE RCD AND CENTO TREATIES,
AND AS WE HAVE STATED IRAN CANNOT TOLERATE THE FURTHER
DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN. TO PREVENT THE DISINTEGRATION
OF THIS COUNTRY IRAN WILL HELP PAKISTAN. IRANIAN ARMED
FORCES WHO ARE IN PAKISTAN, SERVING AT THE PAKISTANI
GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST WEARING IRANIAN MILITARY UNIFORMS
MILITARILY WILL HELP PAKISTAN ONLY IF PAKISTAN'S INTEGRITY
IS THREATENED BY FOREIGN AGGRESSION. THEREFORE, IF INDIA
DOES NOT HAVE AGGRESSIVE PLANS AGAINST PAKISTAN IT SHOULD
NOT BE WORRIED. BUT WHY IS INDIA WORRIED AND WHAT ARE THE
REASONS FOR THESE STATEMENTS AT THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE?
IN REGARDS TO THE CO-OPERATION IN MILITARY AND INTERNAL
SECURITY MATTERS, THIS IS ONLY A MATTER OF CONCERN OF
THE TWO COUNTRIES. END QUOTE

3. COMMENT:

(A) IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT LAST SENTENCE IN FOREGOING
AIDE MEMOIRE WAS CONTAINED IN A LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 12
FROM MIRFENDERESKI TO AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WHITE, THREE
DAYS AFTER AIDE MEMOIRE WAS HANDED HIM. IT OCCURS TO US THAT LANGUAGE

AS STRONG AS THAT CONTAINED IN MEMOIRE COULD ONLY HAVE COME
FROM THE SHAH. WHETHER THIS IS THE CASE OR NOT, SEEMS
ENTIRELY UNLIKELY THAT MFA WOULD HAVE SENT A DOCUMENT
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OF SUCH TONE WITHOUT HIM'S APPROVAL.
J) WORDING OF MEMOIRE RAISES INTRIGUING QUESTIONS ABOUT
IRANIAN ARMED FORCES THAT MAY BE IN PAKISTAN. BEFORE RECEIPT
OF FINAL SENTENCE OF MEMOIRE, AUSTRALIANS HAD ASSUMED THAT
WHATEVER IRANIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL THERE MIGHT BE IN
PAKISTAN, HAD BEEN THERE FOR PURPOSES OF FLOOD RELIEF.
HOWEVER, AFTER PERUSING LAST SENTENCE AUSTRALIANS SUBMITTED
ANOTHER REPORT TO CANBERRA SAYING
AT IRANIAN AIR FORCE
UNITS, "IF NOT GROUND TROOPS", ARE COOPERATING WITH THE
PAKISTANI FORCES IN BALUCHISTAN. THIS MAY BE SPEDILATIVE AND
WORDING OF MEMOIRE IS ADMITTEDLY AMBIGUOUS, BUT POSSIBILITY
SEEMS TO BE LEFT OPEN THAT MORE THAN A HANDFUL OF IRANIAN
HELICOPTERS ARE IN PAKISTANI BALUCHISTAN ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO
EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS SO. ON OTHER HAND, THIS MAY BE ONLY A
SUSPICION WHICH IRANIANS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSE WISH TO LEAVE IN
INDIAN MINDS.
(C) WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN COPY OF LETTER WHICH BRITISH
EMBASSY HERE RECEIVED FROM IRANIANS NOR DO WE KNOW IF
INDIANS HAVE RECEIVED ANY DIRECT PROTESTS FROM IRANIANS.
BUT IN ANY CASE, INDIA SEEMS SURE TO GET
A COPY OF MEMOIRE. AND UNFORTUNATELY IT SEEMS WELL DESIGNED

TO CREATE GREATER MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN IRAN AND INDIA.
END COMMENT

4. FOR NEW DELHI: CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH A COPY OF
SWARAN SINGH REMARKS?
HELMS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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